



April 14, 2016

Last E-Update

Beginning on Friday, April 15, 2016, Senators up for re-election in the even districts, or Senators running for another office, may not use state resources to create or distribute 50 or more pieces of identical items.

Unfortunately, this means that, after today, I will no longer be able to send out my weekly E-Updates.

I hope you have enjoyed reading these updates. My staff and I have had a lot of fun putting them together. It has been great to hear the positive comments from folks throughout the district.

Be sure to follow me on [Facebook](#) if you'd like to continue to receive updates on what's going on in the Northwoods.

MFL Bill Signing

Today, Governor Walker signed Senate Bill 434 (SB 434) into law at Ponsse North America in Rhinelander. I authored this bill with Representative Mursau to make several reforms the Manage Forest Law.



Since I was first elected to the Assembly in 2010 and again in 2012 to the State Senate, the Managed Forest Law program has been a major issue for constituents in my district. Senate Bill 434 reforms the MFL program to make it more user friendly and easier to administer. Besides making the MFL a contract between the enrollee and the state, Senate Bill 434 also reversed a Gov. Doyle veto which will distribute over \$18 million in closed acreage fees back to

local units of government and deliver a tax cut to those harvesting trees by eliminating the severance and yield tax. Additional changes include increasing the minimum acreage for enrollment from 10 to 20 acres, providing greater flexibility for owners when transferring ownership and splitting acreage, and more rule flexibility when a natural disaster strikes property enrolled in MFL.



"More wood, less red tape" has been a saying I've been using a lot. It's imperative to the economy of the Northwoods that we continue to be able to utilize our natural resources, and one of the most abundant is our forest products industry. We need to do all we can to ensure that Wisconsin mills continue to have a steady supply of Wisconsin timber. This bill helps achieve that.



Updated Jobs Numbers Look Good

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for February and preliminary estimates for March covering unemployment and employment statistics for the state of Wisconsin. In brief, the seasonally adjusted estimates show:

The state added 13,100 private sector jobs from February 2016 to March 2016, including a gain of 4,200 jobs in manufacturing. Wisconsin also added 47,500 private-sector and 51,200 total non-farm jobs over the year ending in March 2016, the best year-over-year growth since August 2004 in both categories. Additionally, revised February private-sector job counts swung from a gain of 8,000 to a gain of 10,500 private sector jobs, a difference of 2,500.

A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.5 percent in March 2016, down from 4.6 percent in February 2016. The 4.5 percent rate is lower than the 4.6 percent rate in March 2015 and lower than the national unemployment rate which increased to 5.0 percent in March 2016. Based on preliminary estimates, Wisconsin's total employment grew by 58,000 year-over-year to more than 3 million, an all-time high. Additionally, the state's labor force reached an all-time high in March 2016.

Daisy Award

On Wednesday, Representative Swearingen and I were honored to attend the presentation of the DAISY Award to Todd Olson, RN, at Ministry Home Care Hospice. The DAISY Award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the super-human efforts nurses perform every day.



Todd received multiple nominations from co-workers at Ministry Home Care for this award. His work exhibits clinical expertise and demonstrates extraordinary compassionate care. The winners of the DAISY award receive a certificate that reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." The honoree is also given a pin and a hand-carved sculpture called "A Healer's Touch," created by artists of the Shona Tribe in Africa.

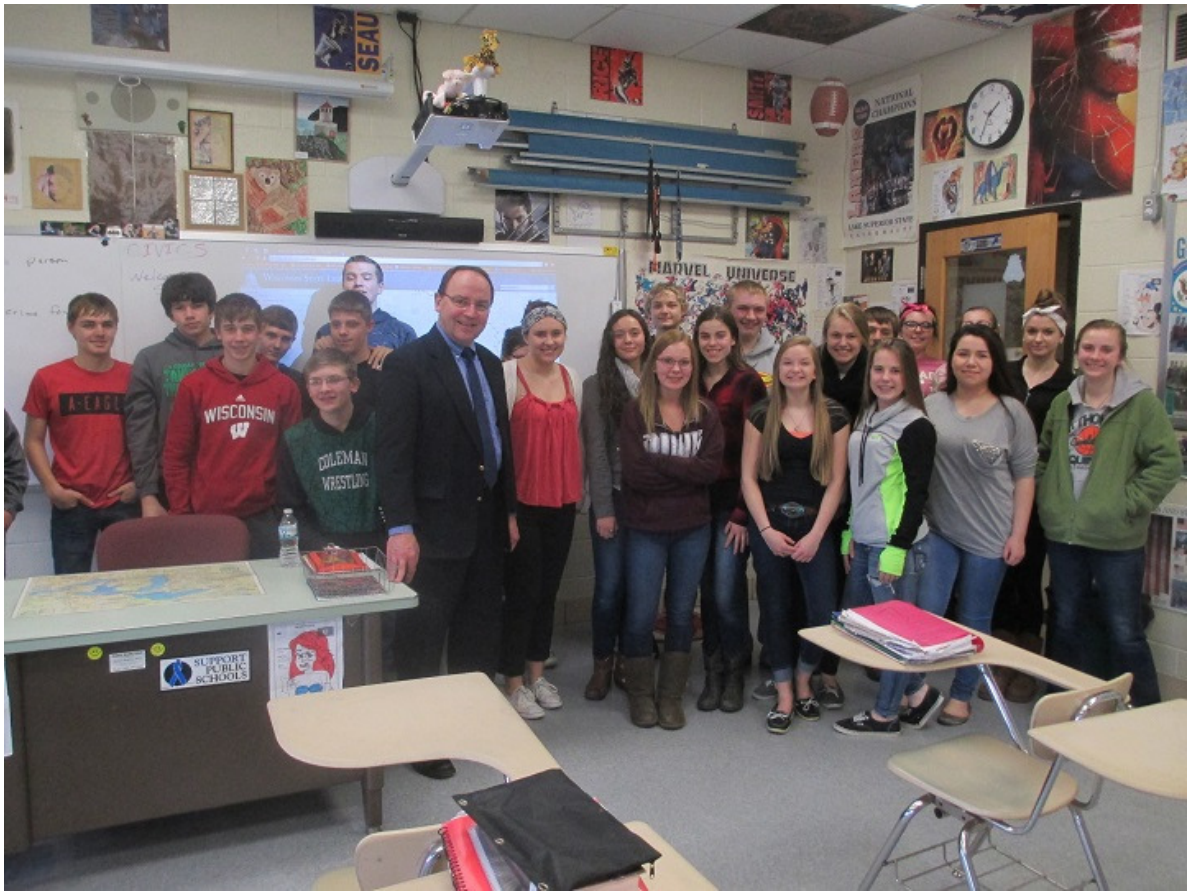


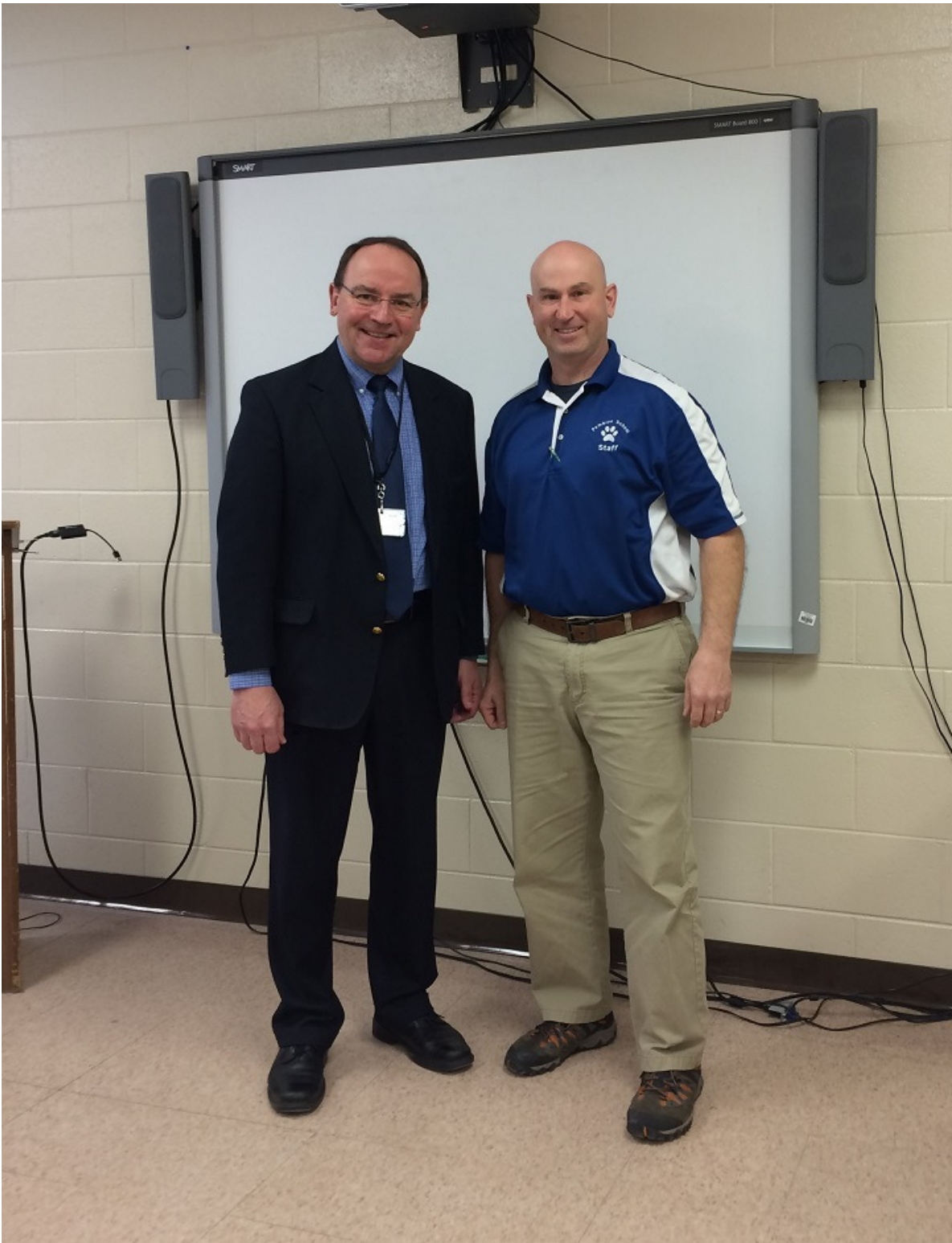
Congratulations again to Todd and everyone at Ministry Home Care for the meaningful work you do.

Class Visits

Over the past few days, I had the pleasure of visiting Civics classrooms at schools in the District. The students and I have had great conversations about both the Federal and state government systems. We discussed how each is set up and how bills become laws. We also touched on current events and candidates, and I answered their questions about some policy issues. One of the most interesting questions that I received was from a 7th grader who asked what we could do about the hot lunch system in schools. She was concerned that since the federal mandates on school lunches have been in place, the hot lunches have not gotten any better for students.

I want to thank Neil Wallace from North Lakeland High School, Chris McClain from Pembine School District, and Jeremy Brady from Coleman High School/Middle School for allowing me to come to their classrooms. Here are a few photos from my visits -









Just for fun... The picture above is from North Lakeland Elementary students who built a Rube Goldberg machine! The machine had to have seven steps and open an umbrella.

Oconto Electric Annual Meeting

I attended the Oconto Electric Cooperative annual meeting last Saturday at the Oconto Falls High School Performing Arts Center. Besides an election for the 5th district, two area students were awarded \$1,000 scholarships from OEC.

Congratulations to Ally and Ryan!



Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

Start Date		Location
April 23	Hodag Hops and Vines Microbrew and Wine Tasting	Rhineland
April 28	Taste of the North	Minocqua
April 30	History Hunt	Merrill
May 7	Martinis in May	St. Germain
May 7	Colors of Cancer 5K	Crandon
May 7	Community Kolor Run	Merrill
May 13 - 15	Chamber Walleye Tournament	Presque Isle
May 28	Main Street Memories Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet	Tomahawk
May 29	Main Street Memories Car Show	Tomahawk
May 29	18th Annual McCaslin Lioness Faire	Lakewood

As always, if you have any comments or thoughts regarding the subjects of this e-update, please feel free to contact me.

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